

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:SFROMOWITZ:DJW
APPROVED BY D:THE DEPUTY SCRTARY
EUR/EE - MR. ANDREWS
S/S-O:SGOLDSMITH

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P R 282240Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

S E C R E T STATE 150636

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, OVIP, PINS, YO, US

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR BELOVSKI CALLS ON DEPUTY
SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER

1. ON JUNE 27, YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR BELOVSKI MET WITH
DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER TO DISCUSS U.S.-YUGOSLAV
BILATERAL RELATIONS IN THE POST-MONDALE VISIT PERIOD.
YUGOSLAV POLITICAL COUNSELOR MATIC AND DIRECTOR, EUR/EE
ALSO ATTENDED. BELOVSKI HAD REQUESTED MEETING WITH
SECRETARY UPON FORMER'S RETURN FROM EXTENDED STAY IN
YUGOSLAVIA, BUT SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE PRECLUDED THIS.
BELOVSKI RAISED MONDALE VISIT, IMPROVED STATE OF BI-
LATERAL RELATIONS IN WAKE OF VISIT, PROSPECTS FOR CON-
TINUING DIALOGUE THROUGH HIGH-LEVEL VISITS, DEPARTMENT'S
CSCE REPORT TO CONGRESS, TERRORISM, THE PROPOSED
MIHAJLOVICH MONUMENT IN WASHINGTON AND A POSSIBLE VISIT
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BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY TO BELGRADE. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY
NOTED OUR SERIOUS CONCERN OVER REPORTS OF TRANSFER OF
U.S.-SUPPLIED TANKS TO ETHIOPIA.

2. MONDALE VISIT. BELOVSKI BEGAN BY THANKING CHRISTOPHER
FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S ROLE IN SETTING UP THE MONDALE
VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA. HE SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAS

PRESENTED A "CLEAN, OPEN AND GOOD" IMAGE THROUGH THE VICE PRESIDENT AND THAT MONDALE HAD MADE A VERY GOOD IMPRESSION ON TITO HIMSELF. BELOVSKI CLAIMED THAT THE NET RESULT OF THE VISIT WAS A STRONG CONVICTION ON THE PART OF TITO AND OTHER SENIOR YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS THAT THERE IS BOTH AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR GOOD AND IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND A READINESS AND DESIRE BY THE NEW ADMINISTRATION TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY REPLIED THAT WE, TOO, WERE PLEASED WITH MONDALE'S VISIT, WHICH THE VICE PRESIDENT HAD FOUND INTERESTING AND USEFUL.

3. HIGH-LEVEL VISITS. BELOVSKI THEN REFERRED TO THE UP-COMING VISITS OF KARDELJ AND GLIGOROV AS EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES TO CONTINUE THIS DIALOGUE. YUGOSLAVIA HOPES THAT SECRETARY VANCE CAN VISIT YUGOSLAVIA, BELOVSKI ADDED, AND THERE IS ALSO A DESIRE TO HAVE PRESIDENT CARTER COME. CHRISTOPHER REPLIED THAT HE KNEW SECRETARY VANCE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO VISITING YUGOSLAVIA, BUT NOTED HIS EXTREMELY HEAVY SCHEDULE. HE ALSO NOTED THAT WE LOOK FORWARD TO A VISIT BY TITO LATER THIS YEAR OR SOMETIME NEXT YEAR. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SEEING AN INCREASE IN UNOFFICIAL VISITS, SUCH AS YOUTH EXCHANGES.

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4. MILITARY COOPERATION. POINTING OUT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD AUTHORIZED HIM TO FOLLOW UP ON THE HOLLOWAY AND MONDALE VISITS, BELOVSKI TOLD THE DEPUTY SECRETARY THAT, WITH RESPECT TO MILITARY COOPERATION, HE WOULD LIKE TO ARRANGE MEETINGS ON THIS SUBJECT AT SOME FUTURE DATE WITH CHRISTOPHER AND THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. HE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS U.S.-YUGOSLAV MILITARY DISCUSSIONS HAD NOT ADVANCED FROM THE PROTOCOLARY TO THE SUBSTANTIVE, AND POINTED TO THE FAR MORE DEVELOPED LEVEL OF MILITARY PURCHASES FROM THE U.K.

5. MINIC LETTER. AMBASSADOR BELOVSKI THEN PRESENTED A LETTER FROM FOREIGN MINISTER MINIC TO SECRETARY VANCE CONCERNING CIEC ISSUES, AND NOTED THAT MINIC HAD BEEN QUITE IMPRESSED WITH THE SECRETARY AT THEIR RECENT MEETING IN PARIS, FINDING IN HIM A "PARTNER WILLING TO DISCUSS THE ISSUES". (SEPTTEL REPORTS ON LETTER.)

6. CSCE REPORT. BELOVSKI THEN TURNED TO THE ADMINISTRATION'S SECOND CSCE REPORT TO CONGRESS AND SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED TO EXPRESS HIS GOVERNMENT'S DIS-

SATISFACTION WITH THE MANNER IN WHICH YUGOSLAVIA HAD

BEEN LUMPED TOGETHER WITH OTHER EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES RATHER THAN BEING RECOGNIZED AS NON-ALIGNED. CLAIMING HE WAS NOT ARGUING WITH THE "SUBSTANCE" OF THE REPORT, BELOVSKI SAID THAT ITS PUBLICATION HAD CAUSED CONSIDERABLE CONSTERNATION AND SURPRISE IN BELGRADE, COMING SO SOON AFTER THE FAVORABLE CLIMATE OF THE MONDALE VISIT. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD TAKE THE AMBASSADOR'S POINT AND NOTED THAT PERHAPS THE INCIDENT WAS AN EXAMPLE OF THE DANGER OF TRYING TO CATEGORIZE NATIONS.

7. TERRORISM. ALTHOUGH BELOVSKI HAD EARLIER ADVISED EUR/EE THAT HE DID NOT INTEND TO RAISE THIS SUBJECT

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WITH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY, HE NONETHELESS LAUNCHED INTO A LECTURE ON THE DANGER TO U.S.-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS FROM ANTI-YUGOSLAV TERRORIST ACTIVITY. THE INCREASE IN SUCH ACTIVITIES, HE SUGGESTED, STEMS FROM THE IMPROVED STATE OF U.S.-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS. HE ALSO REFERRED AGAIN TO THE JACK ANDERSON ARTICLE OF JUNE 14 AND ASKED RHETORICALLY WHETHER THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHOULDN'T DENY ANDERSON'S ALLEGATION THAT THE ARTICLE WAS BASED ON OFFICIAL USG DOCUMENTS. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY RESPONDED BY OBSERVING THAT WE REGRET AND DEPLORE ACTS OF TERRORISM SUCH AS THE ATTACK ON THE UN MISSION AND BY ASSURING BELOVSKI THAT WE WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO BRING THE GUILTY TO JUSTICE--HOPEFULLY IN A WAY THAT DEMONSTRATES WE WON'T TOLERATE SUCH ACTS. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT AS A RESULT OF OUR TRADITION OF SEPARATION OF POWERS, THE PROCESS COULD BE SLOWER THAN WE MIGHT OTHERWISE DESIRE. HE ALSO PROMISED THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO ENSURE THAT ALL APPROPRIATE MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN.

8. MIHAJLOVIC MONUMENT. BELOVSKI MADE PROBABLY HIS STRONGEST STATEMENT ON THE CONSEQUENCES WHICH WOULD ENSUE SHOULD A MONUMENT TO MIHAJLOVIC BE ERECTED IN WASHINGTON. INASMUCH AS MIHAJLOVIC WAS A NAZI COLLABORATOR AND WAR CRIMINAL, HE POINTED OUT, SUCH AN ACTION WOULD BE AN UNPRECEDENTED OFFENSE WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF YUGOSLAVIA COULD NOT TOLERATE. HE SAID "IT WOULD TOTALLY UNDERMINE OUR RELATIONSHIP" AND ASKED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT DO ITS BEST TO PREVENT THIS.

9. TRANSFER OF U.S. TANKS TO ETHIOPIA. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID HE HAD ONLY ONE SUBJECT HE WISHED TO RAISE, EVEN THOUGH IT HAD ALREADY BEEN RAISED BY AMBASSA-

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DOR EAGLEBURGER IN BELGRADE. REFERRING TO OUR REQUEST THAT THE GOY INVESTIGATE AND PROMPTLY REPORT ON THE ALLEGATION THAT THESE TANKS HAD BEEN ILLEGALLY TRANSFERRED

TO ETHIOPIA, CHRISTOPHER SAID HE WISHED TO UNDERScore THE POTENTIAL IMPACT ON OUR RELATIONS. BELOVSKI CLEARLY WAS NOT ANXIOUS TO DWELL ON THE SUBJECT AND LIMITED HIMSELF TO AN ASSURANCE THAT "WE ARE FAITHFUL TO OUR OBLIGATIONS".

10. CHRISTOPHER'S TRIP TO YUGOSLAVIA. AS BELOVSKI WAS LEAVING HE ASKED WHETHER IT WAS TRUE, AS HAD BEEN INDICATED TO AMBASSADOR MOJSOV IN BELGRADE, THAT THE DEPUTY SECRETARY WOULD BE VISITING YUGOSLAVIA. CHRISTOPHER REPLIED THAT ALTHOUGH HIS PLANS WERE STILL INDEFINITE HE EXPECTED HE MIGHT SPEND A DAY IN BELGRADE AROUND JULY 20 EN ROUTE TO THE FAR EAST. BELOVSKI URGED HIM TO STAY AT LEAST TWO DAYS IN ORDER TO GIVE TIME FOR MEETINGS WITH YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS AND THE DEPUTY SECRETARY PROMISED TO ADVISE HIM WHEN HIS PLANS WERE WORKED OUT. VANCE

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